

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification. Please replace paragraph starting at **page 27, line 3** (as filed) in the specification with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 13, a flowchart of an embodiment of a method of allocating a server ~~is~~in response to a resource request is illustrated. In this embodiment, the method begins with step 144, which comprises determining a super group and load balancing policy responsive to a service request. The service request may specify a requested class of service from amongst a plurality of possible categories, and the super group and load balancing policy may be determined in response to the specified class of service.

Please replace paragraph starting at **page 28, line 6** (as filed) in the specification with the following paragraph:

A third embodiment of the invention comprises a system for accessing loading information for a plurality of resources which are candidates for allocating to a service request. Referring to Figure 14, the one ~~ef~~or more candidate resources may be specified by a data element 162 which, in one example, is an entry in a data structure such as a table. The one or more candidate resources may be represented by corresponding sub-portions 162a, 162b, 162c, 162d of the entry. The loading information for each of the candidate resources is replicated across a plurality of indexed data structures 164, 165, 166, and 167, each stored in one of a plurality of memories which are accessible in parallel. Indices 163a, 163b, 163c, and 163d for each of the candidate resources are derived from the corresponding portions 162a, 162b, 162c, and 162d of the data element 162, and used to perform parallel accesses to the data structures 164, 165, 166 and 167. As a result, loading information for each of the candidate resources 162a, 162b, 162c, and 162d may be obtained in parallel. One of the candidate resources is selected responsive to this loading information, and allocated to the request. In one implementation, this resource is selected by applying a suitable load balancing policy to the loading information for the one or more candidate resources.